



## European Union and Sport



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## European Union and Sport

### EU Sport Directors discuss Good Governance

The Polish EU Presidency invited sport directors, the EOC EU Office and other representatives of the sport movement to Gdansk, Poland, on December 15 to discuss good governance in sport.

In his statement Folker Hellmund, director of the EOC EU Office, underlined the importance of the autonomy of sport by safeguarding good governance. Also according to the principle of subsidiarity and proportionality it is the responsibility of every international and national federation to implement good governance in its rules and operations. Mr. Hellmund invited public

authorities to a fair and respectful dialogue on good governance with the Olympic sports movement.

In the ensuing debate various EU sport directors recognised the autonomy of sport organisations in addressing issues of good governance. The state must not intervene, unless sport organisations act illegally.

The recently established EU expert group on good governance will closely monitor any developments in this field and propose recommendations by mid 2012.

### Martin Schulz elected as new European Parliament President



On Tuesday January 17 elections were held within the European Parliament to appoint a new president. It was the German **Martin Schulz** of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) who won the nomination in Strasbourg after a first round ballot with 387 votes in favour out of 670 cast. He will now lead the European Parliament for the

upcoming two and half years. Martin Schulz replaced the outgoing president Jerzy Buzek of the European People's Party (EPP). Apart from his political ideas, the 56-year old Schulz is also known for his passion for sports as evidenced by his strong supporter of his local football club 1. FC Köln.

#### Further information:

[European Parliament news: Martin Schulz elected President of the European Parliament](#)

[European Parliament news: Portrait of new EP President - Who is Martin Schulz](#)



## Outcome of the first Council Expert Groups on Sport

### Presentation of the 6 expert groups

In May 2011, the Council of the EU adopted a resolution **on a European Union Work Plan for Sport for 2011-2014**. Among the measures, the Member States decided to set up for the duration of the work plan 6 Experts Groups (EG) on anti-doping; good governance in sport; education and training; sport, health and participation; sport statistics and sustainable financing of sport. The participants in these EG, composed of Member States representatives, the European Commission and various observers selected for their expertise and their representativeness, will accompany the complete process and further detail the actions foreseen by the EU in the field of sport as of 2014.

### Publication of the first 5 reports

Between September 2011 and January 2012, the six EG, made up of an average of 20 Member States, gathered for the first time. The European Commission published between December 2011 and January 2012 the first reports, with the exception of the EG on education and training. Each of these reports introduces the chair elected by the members, the observers selected and the work scheduled until the end of the process as well as its deliverables.

### Priorities of the expert groups

To summarize briefly the outcome of the first meetings, the EG on anti-doping, chaired by Sweden, will focus on draft comments to the revision of the WADA code; the EG on sustainable financing of sport, chaired by UK, will pay foremost attention to the financial solidarity mechanisms in sport; the sport statistics EG, chaired by Austria, will further develop the sport satellite accounts

in sport; the Health Sport Participation EG, chaired by France, will explore ways to promote health enhancing activity and participation in grassroots sports; the good governance EG will be co-chaired by 3 Member States, corresponding to 3 major fields: Finland for the fight against match fixing, UK for the promotion of good governance and the Netherlands for the work on sport agents and transfers of players.

Many observers have been granted with the status of observer in the EG on good governance. The EOC EU Office was granted with the status of observer in every EG.

### Forthcoming agenda of the expert groups meetings

The schedule for the next EGs meetings is the following:

- Anti-doping: February 8
- Good Governance: March 13
- Health Sport Participation: March 21
- Sport Statistics: April 24
- Sustainable Financing of Sport: May 22

#### For further information:

[EG Sport, Health and Participation meeting document September 27, 2011](#)

[EG Sport Statistics meeting document October 18, 2011](#)

[EG Anti-Doping meeting document October 19, 2011](#)

[EG Sustainable Financing of Sport meeting document November 16, 2011](#)

[EG Good Governance meeting document December 6, 2011](#)



## Programme and Priorities of the Danish Presidency

In the first six months of 2012 it is up to Denmark to chair the Council in the European Union. Denmark, holding the presidency for the seventh time since joining the European Community in 1973, presented its programme and priorities at different venues during the previous month. With the programme being named 'Europe at Work' Denmark wants to refer to current threats the European Union has to face such as the economic crisis and other cross-border challenges. The four general priorities are therefore the following: a responsible Europe, a dynamic Europe, a green Europe and a safe Europe.

With regard to sport, the Danish presidency stated that they have two main tasks to fulfil: promoting sport in Europe and developing the European dimension in sport. The latter can mainly be carried out by:

- Promoting fairness and openness in sporting competitions.
- Promoting cooperation between bodies responsible for sports.
- Protecting the physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen, especially the youngest.

In order to fulfil the two main tasks, the Danish Presidency has formulated four main priorities in the field of sport:

- The sport sub-programme
- Anti-doping
- The fight against match-fixing
- The promotion of sport for all in Europe

The first priority refers to the proposal of the European Commission for a sport sub-programme. This programme will provide for the allocation of EU budget to support activities to develop the European dimension in sport. The presidency therefore wants to ensure that the action plan will be implemented.

The second and the third priority relate to the integrity of sports: anti-doping and fight against match-fixing.

Concerning anti-doping actions will be undertaken in three areas:

- The revision of the WADA Code: continuation of the work of previous presidencies
- EU coordination before meetings of the WADA Foundation Board: continuation of the efforts of previous presidencies
- The problem of recreational doping: with an eye on securing the health of the exercising population and safeguarding the integrity of recreational sport environments, the Danish presidency wants to come up with draft Council conclusions on recreational doping at the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on May 10-11, 2012.

THE DANISH  
PRESIDENCY OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION  
2012



In the fight against match-fixing, Denmark announced that they will build on the work of both the Hungarian and the Polish Presidency to tackle this issue.

And finally, the fourth priority will comprise the promotion of vibrant and healthy sport for all European citizens. This is directly linked to the Sportvision 2012 conference in Copenhagen on March 19-20, 2012. This conference will be divided into three so-called tracks: fitness doping (also linked to

the second priority), volunteering (follow-up of the European Year of Volunteering 2011) and financing and health.

**Further information:**

[Danish Presidency website](#)

[The programme of the Danish Presidency 'Europe at work'](#)

[Sportvision 2012 website](#)

## EU-policy matters

### New directive to revise the Professional Qualifications framework

The European Commission adopted on December 19, 2011 a proposal for modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive ([Directive 2005/36/EC](#)). This proposal follows a process of consultation via a Green Paper published in June 2011 and a public consultation. The proposed directive aims at simplifying rules for the mobility of professionals within the EU by offering a European Professional Card (EPC) to all interested professions which would allow easier and faster recognition of qualifications. The EPC would offer to interested professionals the possibility to benefit from easier and quicker recognition of their qualifications. It should also facilitate temporary mobility. During the public consultation organised by the European Commission in 2011, mountain guides and ski instructors have expressed a strong interest in using such a card.

The question of the impact of this new directive on sport remains vague but could potentially be important, acknowledging the

background of this topic for some sport professions (ski, snowboard and surfing instructors for example).

**Follow-up**

The Directive proposal will now enter the normal legislative procedure and go through the European Parliament and the Council of the EU for approval, a process that will take at least 18 months. The IMCO Committee in the European Parliament will follow-up the file as leading committee and Bernadette Vergnaud (France) has been designated as rapporteur.

The European Commission will organize a conference on February 2, 2012, which will be broadcasted live via internet.

**For further information:**

[European Commission website - Policy developments on Directive 2005/36/EC](#)



## Funding programs, studies and projects

### „Creating a Level Playing Field“ Study Visit in Slovenia

Within the framework of the „Creating a Level Playing Field“ project, the Olympic Committee of Slovenia as well as the Association of Sport Federations organised a study visit for a Spanish partner, Regional Ministry for Youth and Sports of Extremadura on December 21-22, 2011. Participants learned about the Olympic Committee and Association of Sports of Slovenia initiatives to integrate children from migrant families with society. These community programs are carried out by social workers, aiming at taking young people off the streets and creating a lifelong perspective. By a combination of programs including sporting activities, they can develop working habits, discipline and self-confidence. Good practices include commitment of workers, a philosophy of

bringing sports towards society and volunteer involvement.

„Creating a Level Playing Field“ is a project on social inclusion steered by the European Non-Governmental Sport Organisation ENGSO and granted by the European Commission as part of the preparatory actions in the field of sport under the theme of social inclusion in and through sport. It is implemented in cooperation with 11 organisations across Europe. Further study visits will occur at the beginning of this year and as a culmination of the project, a final conference will be organised in Helsinki on March 22-23, 2012.

**Further information:**

[ENGSO - Creating a Level Playing Field website](#)

## Internal and visits

### FICEP-delegation visits Brussels

Gerhard Hauer, president of the International Catholique Sports Confederation (FICEP), and Rainer Röblhuber, deputy General Secretary of FICEP, visited the Brussels EOC EU Office on December 5 to be informed of the latest information on developments and possibilities in the field of sport and the EU.

In addition, the FICEP-delegation also met representatives of the Polish EU Presidency, the European Commission and the European Parliament. The discussions focussed on the Council recently adopted documents on volunteering in sport, the EU representation in WADA and match-fixing as well as the future EU funding instrument for sport.



## First Winter Youth Olympic Games – Innsbruck 2012



From 13 until 22 January the first Winter Youth Olympic Games were held. After the first successful edition of the Summer Olympic Games in Singapore 2010, it was now up to Innsbruck, Austria to host the winter edition.

During the ten days 1,059 young athletes aged 14 to 18 years competed in 63 events. These events were distributed among the towns of Innsbruck, Seefeld and Kühtai.

Under the motto ‘Be part of it’ the organization managed to get 60 countries to delegate athletes.

Afterwards IOC President Jacques Rogge praised the organization, claiming that the Games exceeded all expectations. Furthermore, he stated that solid foundations have been laid for future Youth Olympic Games. The next Winter Youth Olympic Games will take place in Lillehammer, Norway in 2016.

## Special Competence Seminar 2011: Meeting of the EOC EU office partners

On December 12 the partners of the EOC EU Office met in Brussels for the annual Special Competence Seminar.

The Seminar was divided into four parts:

- General information on the recent activities of the Institutions in the field of sport and consequently on the activities of the EOC EU Office.
- Update on various European Funding Programs related to sport and particularly the Program “Erasmus for All”, presented by the Commission at the end of November 2011.
- Presentations of the main policies topics in the field of sport at the European level. (good governance, gambling and match-fixing, media rights, volunteering) and an intervention of Michael Krezja, Head of Sport Unit (DG EAC), European Commission.
- Discussion of future actions and common activities.

In the course of his intervention Michel Krezja confirmed that 238 Mio. EUR are earmarked for the sport chapter in the “Erasmus for All” program. Furthermore, Krezja provided an update on studies launched by the European Commission on match-fixing, transfer systems, financing of grass roots sport and the economic impact of sport.

With regard to its activities in 2011 the EOC EU Office received a very positive feedback from its partners. Especially the activities regarding the incorporation of sport in the Structural Funds and the design of the new sport funding program were highly appreciated.





## New EOC EU Office staff members

The EOC EU Office would like to announce two internal changes taking place as of February 15.



**Charlotte Boetticher** will join the office as the Policy Officer of the German Olympic Committee (DOSB). She is an experienced lobbyist in Brussels and has worked for different representations of the

German Länder in Brussels and for the "European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities" (EASPD). She will replace Stephan Dietzen, who has found a new exciting challenge within the European Commission.

Ms. Boetticher can be reached by email at [boetticher@euoffice.euolympic.org](mailto:boetticher@euoffice.euolympic.org) or by phone at +32 2 738 0326.

**Anne Brüll** will strengthen the team as Office Manager, succeeding Merle Stöcker who will soon begin her studies in Germany. Ms. Brüll comes from the German speaking community in Belgium and has recently completed her studies at the Sport University of Cologne. As a successful handball coach she is passionate about sport.



Ms. Brüll can be reached by email at [bruell@euoffice.euolympic.org](mailto:bruell@euoffice.euolympic.org) or by phone at +32 2 738 0320.

The EOC EU Office would like to take the opportunity to thank both Stephan Dietzen and Merle Stöcker for their much appreciated work at the office. The office also wishes them all the best for the future.





## Dates in February

- 2 Adoption of the report on the “European Dimension of Sport” by Ayxela Fisas in the EP plenary session
- 8 Council Expert Group on “Anti-Doping” in Brussels
- 10 Council Meeting of “Education, Youth, Culture and Sport”

## Important dates of the Danish presidency

- 19-20 March Sportvision 2012 Conference (Volunteering, Fitness doping, Financing & Health) in Copenhagen
- 10-11 May Formal Sport Ministers Council in Brussels
- 31 May – 1 June Sport Directors’ meeting in Copenhagen

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